

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
November 16, 2015
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, November 16, 2015, in the media center of the Block Island School. Superintendent Judith Lundsten called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Patricia Doyle. Christopher Willi was not in attendance.

Annual Meeting

William Padien was nominated for chairperson by Ann Hall; the nomination was seconded by Elizabeth Connor. Being no further nominations, the vote was 3-0 (Patricia Doyle was not in attendance) to approve William Padien as chairperson.

Elizabeth Connor was nominated for secretary by William Padien; the nomination was seconded by Ann Hall. Being no further nominations the vote was 3-0 (Patricia Doyle was not in attendance) to approve Elizabeth Connor as the secretary.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to appoint the chairperson to coordinate requests for assistance from the appointed legal counsel carried with a vote of 3-0 with Patricia Doyle not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Connor, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 19, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 3-0 with Patricia Doyle not in attendance.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the executive session meetings (sessions 1 and 2) held on October 19, 2015, as written carried with a vote of 3-0 with Patricia Doyle not in attendance.

Reports

It was reported that there were a few changes within the salary lines because of UCOA. Previously, only teaching substitutes were included in the substitute line. Now all subs, including summer and long-term custodial subs, will appear in this line. A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the fiscal report through October 31, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

Mrs. Lundsten reported that there were multiple troubles with the school's heating system. Possible culprits included bad power from BIPCO and/or a bad breaker. The biggest problem, however, was the three-way valve in the old boiler room that hasn't functioned in three years. In addition, the filters haven't been changed in several years. It is hoped that an operating manual can be developed so that preventative and routine maintenance can take place.

Mrs. Lundsten stated that the professional development day held on November 11 went well. The elementary staff worked on writing rubrics and the new math program. The secondary and

middle grades teachers were involved in a workshop on mental health for adolescents led by a representative from South County Hospital. Mrs. Lundsten also reminded the School Committee that under state law each of them is required to have six hours of professional development each year. Mrs. Lundsten plans to attend a workshop at Bryant University on negotiations and communications and invited committee members to attend with her.

Mrs. Lundsten reported that the PARCC Assessment scores will be released tomorrow. RIDE is telling districts to treat the scores as a baseline.

The technology committee met on Friday to review the current technology and develop a budget. North Kingstown will be contacted in hopes that they will provide us with more professional development. Action steps were developed and we will move forward on them. We should be notified later this week if we have been awarded the grant from The Champlin Foundations.

Mrs. Lundsten reported that more paperwork needed to be signed for the fast track grant we received for the water intrusion project.

Tammy Tyler has reported that she and her team have installed about 75 percent of the LED fixtures/lights. Some lights take different fixtures and she needs to order those.

Mrs. Lundsten attended a meeting with Sam Bird, Marc Tillson, Jenn Brady, Chris Warfel, and William Padien to discuss all of the possible sites for the solar project and the regulatory issues associated with them. The Faulkner property would require an amendment to the zoning laws because the solar array would be an accessory, but there is no primary use. The parking lot would lose most of the parking spaces and there would be an issue with the fire codes. The Thomas property would not be the primary for the accessory use. The medical center was ruled out because of the cost. The school's athletic field is in the PE zone and would not require a special use permit. The 308-foot long array would encroach into the playing field about 11 feet because it would need to go around the infiltrator system. When asked if Lifestar could still land in the field, it was reported that the wider community did not want the helicopter landing here, especially during the school day, but the array would not preclude the helicopter from landing in the school field. It was suggested that Lifestar be contacted regarding its continuation of landing in the field if the solar array was located there. There are still things to be worked out regardless of which site is chosen, but the completion deadline is not until March 2017.

Old Business

Policy HC: Athletic Compensation was posted for the required 20-day period, but after a discussion with the athletic director was amended to make it more sport season specific. A motion (Connor, Hall) to approve Policy HC: Athletic Compensation as amended carried with a vote of 4-0.

Susan Gibbons updated the School Committee on the Further A Field trip planned for January 2016. Airline tickets have been purchased and housing has been secured. Two chaperones have been confirmed and two students will not attend. Donations that have been sought by Kate Butcher are well over the cost of the trip and being banked for next year. The trail-a-thon will raise about \$2500 and scholarships have been provided. A pancake breakfast is being planned

for some time in December. It was decided not to include the 11th or 12th grade students as this would add a level of complication. Reasons given for not including them were: they will be attending Close-Up later in the school year, there are basketball games scheduled, and not an easy decision to figure out which students should be invited to attend.

New Business

It was noted that Policy DCE: Time & Effort Reporting Requirements is required by RIDE and the federal government whenever any part of an employee's salary is paid with grant funds. A motion (Padien, Doyle) to post Policy DCE: Time & Effort Reporting Requirements for the required 20 days carried with a vote of 4-0.

Jill Seppa was in attendance to explain the Partnership for Success survey that the Block Island Wellness Coalition would like the students to participate in regarding substance use attitudes and behaviors. All answers will be kept confidential and students are not required to participate. The original thought was to survey students in grades 8-12, but it was suggested that perhaps grade 7 could be included. It was also suggested that Social Worker Summer Riker and/or the administration should be the ones to decide which grades should participate. A motion (Connor, Hall) to approve the distribution of the student survey carried with a vote of 4-0.

A request was received from the Class of 2016 to change the date of graduation to enable them to have the ceremony off campus at the Sullivan House, which will provide all amenities at no charge to the school. A motion (Connor, Doyle) to approve the request from the Class of 2016 to change the date of graduation from Saturday, June 11 to Sunday, June 12, 2016, carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointments of John Tarbox and Pat Wygant (pending receipt of his coaching certification) as the weight room supervisors for the winter sports season carried with a vote of 4-0.

A request for home schooling was received from a parent. The parent and student met with the principal, guidance counselor, faculty, and Mrs. Lundsten. They intend to use an online curriculum that has been approved by the School Committee in the past and meets all of our requirements. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the home schooling request carried with a vote of 4-0.

Calendar of Events

It was noted that the next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2015, the second Monday of the month.

Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Congressman Langevin thanking Kristine Monje for welcoming him to Block Island School.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:21 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for collective bargaining and for 5(a)(3) security issues carried with a vote of 4-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:33 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 4-0.

It was noted that the following motion was made in executive session: A motion (Connor, Padien) to approve the ground rules for negotiations as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:34 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: December 14, 2015